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PLAN OF THE CITY OF CANTON,
THE FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS OF
SHANGHAI.

A Chromo-Lithograph Plate of the
NEW CODE OF SIGNALS IN USE
AT THE PEAK;

THE VARIOUS HOUSE FLAGS
(Described opposite the NEW CODE OF SIGNALS)
MAPS OF HONGKONG, JAPAN,
and of the
THE COAST OF CHINA;
NEW CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE—
HONGKONG;

besides other local information and statistics, intended to date of publication, leading to my this work in every way suitable for Public, Mercantile, and General Reference.

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DEATH. On 23rd instant, SOPENA, wife of the late James Deacon, Esq., formerly of Hallebury, Herts, in her 73rd year. (By telegram.)

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, AUGUST 26TH, 1874.

The case of ELINS v. MITCHELL, the judgment in which was given in yesterday's paper, bears upon a very important point in connection with the jurisdiction of Consuls in the Colony. It appears that the plaintiff was engaged as steward on board the American ship *Lathley* in Cardiff, England, the articles stipulating for a return of the vessel to a port in Europe or the United States, and it being agreed on behalf of the plaintiff that he should be of good behaviour. Upon the rather vague grounds that the man had been of dirty and wasteful habits, he was discharged in Hongkong before the United States Consul, and claimed damages accordingly, in the Summary Court, before Mr. Justice SWORWEN. It seems that, upon the master at first coming before Mr. LORING, the Acting Consul for the United States, a question was raised whether plaintiff was entitled to two extra months' wages under the provisions of an American Act of Congress with reference to the discharge of seamen in a foreign port—the United States Consul being, it appears in such cases, entitled to adjudicate disputes between Captains and Seamen, and to collect three months' extra wages on the discharge of a seaman abroad, and remit a portion in case of misbehaviour. Acting under this authority, the United States Acting Consul disallowed the "three months' extra wages due to plaintiff, and the latter in consequence sued for those wages and also for damages for wrongful dismissal.

It is of course obvious that the first question to arise under this set of circumstances was that of the jurisdiction of the Court before whom the case was brought—as there is obviously a conflict of law—and accordingly a defense was set up to the effect that the Court had no jurisdiction—the man having been regularly discharged before the United States Consul. As, however, the discharging the man involved also the settlement of his claim for wages, the crucial point in the case became whether the American Consul in this Colony had jurisdiction in regard to the settlement of the wages. The point involves some very interesting and fine questions of international law, but we are able to state upon reliable authority that the conclusion which Mr. Justice SWORWEN arrived at is in accordance with the general practice in such matters, though there are some apparently strong grounds, upon which it may oppose in theory.

It is thoroughly established that all questions as to ship's discipline fall under the law of the flag to which the ship belongs—and the settlement of wages and granting discharge being of this character would seem to fall under this category, and are left in the hands of the Consul, who arranges such matters, provided that neither party objects to the decision arrived at. If, however, an objection be made it is customary for the Consul to raise no question of jurisdiction, he being, under ordinary circumstances, only too glad to be freed from the responsibility of settling such unpleasant disputes—and to leave the parties to obtain redress at the ordinary Courts of the place, provided the country be one recognised as civilised, and within the county of nations. The simple reason for this course is that, although in strictness the matter is under foreign law, no Consul has the means of enforcing jurisdiction in an English port—and the result of his pronouncing a decision upon a question if the parties do not voluntarily submit to his arbitration, is that he has no power to enforce it. Such cases, therefore, in practice come under the law of the flag, but the jurisdiction of the port.

In the present case the award is not practically affected by this question, because Mr. Justice SWORWEN was of opinion that the action of the United States Acting Consul in

respect to the wages was acquiesced in by the plaintiff—but he intimates his opinion that, had the plaintiff not so acquiesced, the Court here could take cognisance of the matter—and in this we believe he is quite in accordance with the practice in all similar cases. With respect to a claim for damages for wrongful dismissal here, the case was perfectly clear. That was actually a claim arising in the Colony itself, as it was here that the plaintiff was dismissed. In regard to this, there could be no question of the Court's jurisdiction—and taking a general view of the merits of the case, we must say, it is a subject of congratulation that the plaintiff had some means of redress, as his dismissal in the manner proposed by Mr. LORING would certainly have been very hard upon him. Mr. Justice SWORWEN gave his opinion that there was no such misconduct as would justify a dismissal—and, although there may of course be room for a difference of opinion upon such a point, it is obvious that ought to be something of a very distinct and unmistakable character to form a sufficiently severe ground for dismissing a man in a foreign port, where he must have difficulty in again obtaining employment and withholding any compensation whatever from him. In an ordinary way, no doubt, the Consuls are quite able to adjust disagreements of this character to the satisfaction of the parties concerned—but it is occasionally a question having particular weight upon particular subjects, come to a conclusion to which one of the parties seriously objects, it is certainly in the interests of justice that the party so objecting should have the right of recourse to the regular tribunals of the port, who from their more extended experience are naturally likely to be able to estimate with accuracy the exact merits of any such claims.

Complainant said he saw the defendant in Yu Lake lane, coming towards him, when on seeing him, he went into a house. He found him there, and he was then taken under arrest. On the road to the station the defendant threw away the brass padlock. The defendant said he was a steamer-chapraire—stealing oil, and to make the case large put the sheet of metal under his jacket, and had the steel stolen that.

The watchman said it was carefully tied up, and the defendant was then sent to the monthly jail.

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The steamer *Olympia* left Shanghai, for this port, yesterday the 25th instant.

The stock of Mallow Opium in Bombay, on the 22nd instant, was 400 cattas. The market was slow owing to holidays.

Defendant said he was five years in the Sandwich Islands, and wore European clothes there. The clothes produced were his own, he bought them at a store there. The clothes being good and the defences unreasonable, the case was remanded till Monday next.

We are informed that, to meet the convenience of the sender of heavy letters adhesive stamps of ten dollars three cents and two cents respectively may be obtained at Post-offices—those which are in danger for the payment of stamp duty being used for the purpose.

DEATH. On 23rd instant, SOPENA, wife of the late James Deacon, Esq., formerly of Hallebury, Herts, in her 73rd year. (By telegram.)

The following paragraph, extracted from the paper of 26th June, is of interest to seafarers and others in China:

"It has long been known that the jumbo timber of Western Australia enjoys perfect immunity from the ravages of the *teredo navalis*, which has caused the destruction of numerous piers and jetties not only on the Australian coast, but also in China and the tropical seas. During the past few days two pieces of wood, about two inches square, were taken off the jumbo timber of the *teredo* above named. It is evident that the jumbo is a perfect honeycomb of cells, the hull was untouched, and was sound as the day it was cut in the forest. The wood has been inspected by a large number of gentlemen interested in the matter, and they are all of opinion that the high adiabatic pressure on the jumbo timber is fully borne out by the preceding test."

POLICE INTELLIGENCE. 28th August.

BEFORE JAMES RYSELL, Esq.

SUSPICIOUS CHA-MA-TERS.

P. C. 231 charged two Indians named CHAN ACTING and CHAN YEW with being suspicious characters, dangerous to the peace and good order of the colony.

Complainant said at 3 p.m. on the 27th inst., he was in the Queen's Road Central, when he saw the two defendants talking together. He went close to them and he overheard the first defendant say to the second "Now you have made yourself rich to-day amongst the crowd, you have stolen a lot of money, and have got a small piece of a razor, which pick-pockets in general use to cut chains, and ticks from the jackets of people in the streets."

Chinese sergeant Hip Anam said the other night he was in the Gap at Wai-ping-ho after 9 p.m., and saw a woman going up also. He saw the first defendant and four others following her, and on following them, he saw the woman turn round and look at the Queen's Road Central, and said she was looking for the second defendant. When he asked the woman what she wanted, she said because the five men were following her. He told her to go on, and he would watch. She went back, and coming up to the first defendant he asked him why he and his gang followed the woman, and it was to rob her. He said "no," when he told the first defendant that if he caught him following people again he would prevent his attempt to rob her. The first defendant then said "I will not be prevented." The second defendant robbed him of his silver toothpick, and he was returning with him for doing so when the constable came up.

The second defendant said what P.C. No. 231 was true, and what the first defendant said was untrue. The first defendant was the greatest pick-pocket. The dialogue stated by the constable No. 231 did take place and he was going to divide the spoil with him, but it was not him who threw the gap containing the knife away—it was the first defendant. The first defendant and the other five men, and they went up Po-yen Street, and he guided the woman alone. He had known the defendants for some years.

The first defendant denied that the second defendant was with him in Gap Street. In respect of the charge against him by P.C. No. 231 he denied that also. The second defendant robbed him of his silver toothpick, and he was returning with him for doing so when the constable came up.

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and others of their number state that there were more men on board, and that out of them were two or three Chinese.

About 3 p.m. on the 16th instant, a gunboat crossing the river, at high tide, forced the bow of the *D'Exude*, French corvette, and was captured. The boat contained four persons, three men and a woman. The moment the incident was observed, boat was lowered from the mainmast, the crew of which succeeded in saving the woman, but the three men, a Frenchman and two Chinese, were lost. Another accident occurred at Hainan's Wharf on Saturday night, between 10 and 11 o'clock, when a Chinaman while in the act of unloading a cargo-boat from the steamer *Chingking*, fell overboard and was drowned. It was dark at the time, and as there was a strong tide running, no attempt was made to rescue the man. He was not seen after being felt into the water, and it is believed that he was devoured by sharks.

According to the news, the scene of great excitement among the Chinese population, consequent upon the announcement that Chiarin's Circus Company would parade to-morrow in equestrian splendour. Just before the time of starting a heavy shower fell, but notwithstanding this thousands of Chinese of all grades thronged the notified route of the processions, and, despite their proverbial fondness for gambling, the surrounding peasants throughout the district, and the townspeople, gratifying the fact that Chinamen are prone to curiosity, even at the cost of some inconvenience. The result in this instance was, that the Chinese spectators, in addition to the members of Syuan, a large number from various parts of China, and delegates from other churches.

Government, Pastoral Theology, Church History and portions of the scriptures, were on the vessel, and were available, and a good many men had faithfully attended the opportunity. The terms of study are of three months, each followed by the same length of time spent in preaching and itinerating. One man, the first convert in connection with the Chaofo church, was licensed to preach the gospel. Another man, of much promise, was ordained to the work of the ministry. It is expected, that the last named will be able to be settled as pastor over a church in the interior.

On the 8th instant, the Synod of China met in the Presbyterians church at Choofo, and was opened with a sermon in Chinese by the moderator, the Rev. C. W. Mateer, from the text, "My kingdom is not of this world," John 18: 31. The Rev. Dr. Martin of Peking, was elected moderator for the ensuing year. There are still 61 members of the Synod, 16 of whom are Chinese.

Much delay in conducting business is caused by the necessity of having to translate in several languages and dialects. A large majority understand the mandarin; and it is hoped that the members from Canton and other ports may in time find it practicable to study mandarin, so that all the business may be conducted in that language.

The members are in addition to the members of Syuan, a large number from various parts of China, and delegates from other churches.

August 19th, 1874.

CHINKIANG. (*N. O. Daily News*.)

Our little Settlement was somewhat startled on Wednesday evening to hear report of an alligator had been caught in the Yangtze opposite the Settlement. The occurrence was so extraordinary that first few of us gave credence to the report, but seeing it believed, and, thanks to the kindness of its captor, I now add to send you the following particulars of our strange visitor.

At about 1 p.m. of the afternoon in question, we heard the Chinese Navigation Company's hull *Codis*, saw a black object floating in the water, and drifting down with the tide. It was at the time supposed to be a seal, and four of the hulls' guns gave pursuit in a small sampan. On coming up with the chase, there was a great "All-aboard," amongst the passengers, and one man, who had been to the deck, struck at the head of the beast, and, however, did not inflict any other effect than causing it to dive and disappear from view. About half an hour afterwards the animal was again seen, and, after floating on the water, by a lady and gentleman who were returning from a visit to Silver Island, but they passed it at some distance. The alligator, and its true character was not suspected. The 8 Chinese men-of-war left and anchored below Silver Island, waiting for Yungching to discharge her cargo and accompany them. They carry in all 4,000 troops and 450 horses, and it is expected they will start on their expedition this p.m., at 5 o'clock.

We have had no alligator hunting since, and the natives are not yet so bold as to venture into the stream until opposite the Consular Bluff, where, it is presumed, trying to reach the shore, it was caught by the up-current and floated to the Hulk of the S. S. N. O. Here Mr. R. Talbot Williams repaid it, and getting together some of his boatmen, gave chase in a hurry. Our friend seemed to be perfectly unaware of the approach of his enemies, and made no effort to defend himself, till he was immediately fired at, being caught up with a round turn, came again to the surface, and, having his huge tail again and again in his helpless efforts to escape, finding this weapon of no avail, the animal brought its voracious jaws into play, and made efforts to burst its bonds. But all was in vain, and the prize was dragged ashore in triumph. I have been told that the monster this morning, and an spider brute, I hope never to meet with. From the tip of its nose to the extremity of the tail it measures 8 feet 4 inches, and its weight is close on 200 lbs. It is now placed in a small artificial pond in the American Consulate, where it lies apparently contented, for it makes no effort to escape. Yungching, however, by the prudence of its keeper, stuck it with a spear, and, after a vicious look of the eye, combined with the ominous snarl of the huge jaws, as it brings its formidable teeth together, make one spring back with a sense of fear. Of course, every one is anxious to see it, and I hear that it has been presented to some Chinese, who will probably be a good boy by exhibiting it.

Now to have a creature of such size, we are all conjecture, for we believe in the absence of any zoologist of repute—that replicas of this species have hitherto been quite unknown in the Yangtze waters. The most likely story I have heard concerning the beast in this. About five years ago Misra, Ong & Co's Company purchased—from whom I am not able to give the name—two crocodiles or alligators, which were sent to the Chinese Consulate at Silver-Island, to be turned into the river, but with what purpose the request was made is well known to the donor. These beasts thus measured respectively 3 ft. and 4 ft., so that if this one of the animals that were cast adrift in the river as stated, their growth must be very rapid. For my part, I hope it will be proved that it is and I am sure few of us have any doubt in this respect that the Yangtze is a river of great probability of his bleeding to death. The entry was however, successfully taken up, and the water will ever again be in doubt. Lieutenant Fowler shortly comes in from visiting the other stations, and thenceforth is in search of his hat, which had fallen off in the shade. Of course they were told to go, and by a coincidence E. O. Jones saw him on the Yang-kang-pang. As he quickly saw the constable, and once more ran off, but Jensen took him, and immediately knocked him down. The constable, Mr. P. G. Gordon and Powell came up, and took him to the station, Jensen returning in search of his hat, which had fallen off in the shade. The prisoner was taken before O. B. Bradford, Esq., at the U.S. Consulate-General, on Saturday, and remained until the wounded man is able to appear against him. One incident in connection with the affair worth relating, as showing the spirit of the English soldiers in the Settlements. When Jensen, the Bird to the station, returned, in search of his hat, which had fallen off in the shade. The prisoner was taken before O. B. 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TWEEDES for BUTTS, made especially
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WHITE and FANOV DUCKS, DRILLS,
The above Goods are made up in our yards
and their place filled by draw circle
notes—a change which will, doubtless, give
general satisfaction. The funds for this pur-
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the Amateur Dramatic Society and the Public.

THE LINEAR.

Your Committee are glad to note that this
portion of the business is to be duly applic-
ed to the public. Students and scholars
here and at neighbouring ports are beginning
to recognize its use as the only collection of
valuable, and in some cases unique, works to
be found between Shanghai and Canton. The
number of reader's signatures for the past year
is 1,557. The printed catalogue being
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Committee, who will then make an
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The progress towards the formation of a
museum is however slow; in the absence of
any funds whatever wherever to purchase
specimens, and your Committee would
suggest that the owners and managers of
steamers and sailing vessels be asked to
contribute a sum of interest gratis.

The nucleus of a collection has already been
formed, and some few articles have been presented
during the past year. The Herbarium commanded
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ACCOUNTE.

The hon. treasurer reports that the Revenue
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(including instances on the building). The
total deficit on the whole account since its com-
mencement is \$294.22.

It is, however, hoped
that the subscription now being raised amongst
the public, and which amounts at date to \$300,
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THE SECOND COLONIAL SEA AND
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BATAVIA.

The Undersigned, having been appointed
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SHIPMEN to the following Premiums:

For all marine risks, except those which are
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